

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 21, 2009

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 18, 2009

SENATE BILL

No. 144

Introduced by Senator Pavley

February 11, 2009

An act to add Section 4556 to the Public Resources Code, relating to forest resources.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 144, as amended, Pavley. Forest resources: management.

The Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973 prohibits a person from conducting timber operations unless a timber harvesting plan prepared by a registered professional forester has been submitted for the timber operations to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and approved. The act requires a person who owns timberlands that are to be devoted to uses other than the growing of timber to file an application for conversion with the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

The California Forest Legacy Program Act of 2007 establishes the California Forest Legacy Program to conserve private forest lands by authorizing the department to acquire conservation easements of eligible properties according to specified criteria.

This bill would require the department, in order to further the goals of the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 and to enhance the capability of forest lands to sequester carbon, to develop options and incentives for the management of private forests pursuant to the criteria established under the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, to establish, in consultation with the State Air Resources Board, a scientific standardized baseline upon which *baselines at the regional*

and state scales to project future scenarios of carbon emissions and sequestration, and to develop, in consultation with the State Air Resources Board and the Department of Fish and Game, regulations that establish mitigation requirements for forest land conversions. The bill would require the department to impose a fee on an applicant for conversion that fully offsets the department's costs for implementing the above requirement as it relates to conversion.

The bill also would state that it is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to develop a planning watershed-scale timber harvesting permit in order to facilitate long-term planning, improve information that is available to the public and reviewing agencies, ensure meaningful cumulative impact assessments, and provide a more cost-efficient permitting program for applicants.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 *SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact*
2 *legislation to develop a planning watershed-scale timber harvesting*
3 *permit in order to facilitate long-term planning, improve*
4 *information that is available to the public and reviewing agencies,*
5 *ensure meaningful cumulative impact assessments, and provide a*
6 *more cost-efficient permitting program for applicants.*

7 ~~SECTION 1.~~

8 *SEC. 2.* Section 4556 is added to the Public Resources Code,
9 to read:

10 4556. (a) In order to further the goals of the California Global
11 Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Division 25.5 (commencing with
12 Section 38500) of the Health and Safety Code),

13 and to enhance the capability of forest lands, as defined in
14 subdivision (g) of Section 12220, to sequester carbon, the
15 department shall do all of the following:

16 (1) Develop options and incentives for the conservation and
17 management of private forest lands pursuant to the criteria
18 established under the California Global Warming Solutions Act
19 of 2006 (Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 38500) of the
20 Health and Safety Code).

21 (2) Establish, in consultation with the State Air Resources Board,
22 a scientific standardized baseline upon which baselines at the

1 *regional and state scales* to project future scenarios of carbon
2 emissions and sequestration.

3 (3) Develop, in consultation with the State Air Resources Board
4 and the Department of Fish and Game, regulations that establish
5 a full mitigation requirement for the carbon stock and sequestration
6 losses due to forest land conversions.

7 (b) The department shall impose a fee on an applicant for
8 conversion that fully offsets the department's costs for
9 implementing this section as it relates to conversion.